

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan ANNEX

Ross School District

Introduction

The Ross School District is a small independent K-8 school district located in Marin County, California. The district has an enrollment of 388 students and employs 1 part time and 64 full time people. Last year, the District's budget was \$4,986,559.

The Planning Process

This process of preparing this plan was familiar to Ross School District. District has a Safety Plan in place that was updated in 2006. In addition, the District routinely enforces the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements (which, since 1988, have required mitigation for identified natural hazards). The District's effort has focused on building on these pre-existing programs and identifying gaps that may lead to disaster vulnerabilities in order to work on ways to address these risks through mitigation. The District consists of 2 buildings located in the town of Ross, in Marin County.

Key City staff met on two occasions to identify and prioritize mitigation strategies appropriate for the District. Staff involved in these meetings included the Superintendent of Schools and Architectural and Engineering Consultants to the District. At the first meeting, the general priorities and appropriate District departments were identified. The second virtual meeting identified preliminary budgets and potential funding sources for strategies designed as "High" priority. The District provided the opportunity for the public to comment on the DRAFT mitigation strategies selected by District staff at the Board meeting on April 2, 2007. The resolution adopting the plan and strategies was on the District Board agenda for the same meeting. The mitigation strategies will become an implementation appendix to the Safety Plan.

Hazard and Risk Assessment

The ABAG multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, to which this is an Annex, lists nine hazards that impact the Bay Area, five related to earthquakes (faulting, shaking, earthquake-induced landslides, liquefaction, and tsunamis) and four related to weather (flooding, landslides, wildfires, and drought). These hazards also impact this community, except for surface faulting. Surface faulting is not a hazard in the Ross School District because no active faults are located in the District.

The District has not undertaken any general hazard mapping activities. However, hazard maps for Marin County and the school district are shown on the ABAG website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/>.

Information on disasters declared in Marin County can be found at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/disaster-history.html>.

The District examined the hazard exposure of the 1 critical facility located within the District. There are two buildings, one of which has three wings. All of these critical facilities are owned by the District

- ◆ Earthquake faulting – No active faults run within the District so rupture of a fault is not a direct concern.
- ◆ Earthquake shaking – 4 acres are in the highest two categories of shaking potential,
- ◆ Earthquake-induced landslides – There are no facilities located in an area where earthquake-induced landslides might occur
- ◆ Earthquake liquefaction – 4 acres are in a high category for earthquake liquefaction
- ◆ Tsunamis – Tsunamis are not an issue for the District
- ◆ Flooding – 4 acres are in the 100-year flood plain
- ◆ Landslides – No acres are in areas of existing landslides.
- ◆ Wildfires – 4 acres are subject to high, very high, or extreme wildfire threat and is located in a designated fire threatened community
- ◆ Dam Inundation – No buildings are in danger from a dam inundation.
- ◆ Drought – the district acres are subject to drought.

The District buildings are located in flood-prone areas, and have suffered repetitive losses in 1955, 1982, 1986 and 2005 based on the information at District officers.

Drought, though a potential problem in the District, is not fully assessed. The District will work with ABAG and various water supply agencies on this issue.

The District plans to work with ABAG to develop specific information about the kind and level of damage to buildings, infrastructure, and critical facilities which might result from any of the hazards previously noted.

As these impacts are not fully developed, the District has reviewed the hazards identified and ranked the hazards based on past disasters and expected future impacts. The conclusion is that liquefaction and repetitive flooding pose a significant risk for potential loss.

Mitigation Activities and Priorities

As a participant in the ABAG multi-jurisdictional planning process, Ross staff helped in the development and review of the comprehensive list of mitigation strategies in the overall multi-jurisdictional plan. The list was discussed at a meeting of the District Superintendent and the Engineering and Architectural Consultants on February 1, 2007. At the meeting, all of the mitigation strategies relating to Education were reviewed. The tentative decision on priority was made based on a variety of criteria, not simply on an economic cost-benefit analysis. These criteria include being technically and administratively feasible, politically acceptable, socially appropriate, legal, economically sound, and not harmful to the environment or our heritage.

Over time, we are committed to developing better hazard and risk information to use in making those trade-offs. We are not trying to create a disaster-proof District but a disaster-resistant one. In addition, several of the strategies are existing District programs.

These draft priorities were submitted to the Superintendent for review. The draft priorities were provided to the School Board at their April 2, 2007 meeting. The public was provided with an opportunity to comment on the DRAFT priorities. The final strategies (as shown in the attached Table) will become an *Implementation Appendix* to the District's Safety Plan.

The Plan Maintenance and Update Process

The Assistant Principal serves as the District Safety Manager/Risk Manager and will ensure that **monitoring** of this Annex will occur. The plan will be monitored on an on-going basis. However, the major disasters affecting our community, legal changes, notices from ABAG as the lead agency in this process, and other triggers will be used. Finally, the Annex will be a discussion item on the agenda of the meeting of School Board at least once a year in April. At that meeting, the Board will focus on **evaluating** the Annex in light of technological and political changes during the past year or other significant events. This group will be responsible for determining if the plan should be updated.

The Ross School District is committed to reviewing and **updating** this plan annex at least once every five years, as required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The District Safety Manager, will contact ABAG four years after this plan is approved to ensure that ABAG plans to undertake the plan update process. If so, the District again plans to participate in the multi-jurisdictional plan. If ABAG is unwilling or unable to act as the lead agency in the multi-jurisdictional effort, other agencies will be contacted, including the County's Office of Emergency Services. Counties should then work together to identify another regional forum for developing a multi-jurisdictional plan.

The **public** will continue to be involved whenever the plan is updated and as appropriate during the monitoring and evaluation process. Prior to adoption of updates, the District will provide the opportunity for the public to comment on the updates. A public notice will be posted prior to the meeting to announce the comment period and meeting logistics.